

MINUTES

SUISUN RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S MEETING

HELD ON WEDNESDAY, JUNE 12th, 2024 AT 2:00 PM
SOLANO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISOR'S CHAMBERS
675 TEXAS STREET
FAIRFIELD, CA 94533

DIRECTORS PRESENT: H. Kent Hansen
Mike Lewis
Dick Vanderkous

OTHERS PRESENT: Laureen Barthman-Thompson, DFW
Dennis Becker, DFW
Steven Chappell, SRCD
Kevin Clark, DWR
Tim Edmunds, SRCD
Marina Guzman, SRCD
Kelli Perez, SRCD
Orlando Rocha, DFW
Jamel Stewart, DWR
John Takekawa, SRCD
Jeff Taylor, SRCD
John Telfer, SRCD Assoc. Director

1. Call to Order ~ Mr. Lewis called the Suisun Resource Conservation District Board of Directors meeting to order at 2:02 PM.

2. Public Comments ~ There were no public comments.

3. Open Session ~ Mr. Lewis opened the June 12, 2024, Board of Directors meeting. Mr. Lewis asked for consideration of agenda Item 3a.

a) Approval of the May 8, 2024, Board Meeting Minutes ~ Mr. Lewis asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the May 8, 2024 Board meeting. A correction was included to note the vendor claims report was from April rather than May that was incorrect in the draft. A motion was made by Mr. Hansen and seconded by Mr. Vanderkous to approve the amended May 8, 2024, Board Meeting Minutes; all were in favor and the motion carried.

4. Financial Reports ~

a) Approval of Vendor Claims for May 2024 ~ Mr. Chappell reported the May 2024 SRCD General Fund vendor claims totaled \$102,914.80. All expenses are regular general fund operations with 3 payroll periods included in the monthly summary. Mr. Chappell reported the May 2024 Lower Joice Island vendor claims totaled \$19,483.90. All expenses were normal LJI operational and salary expenses with included garbage dumpster service and EWE tractor repairs. Mr. Chappell reported the May 2024 Water Managers Program vendor claims totaled \$47,193.24. All expenses were normal Water Managers operational and salary expenses and include some trailer repairs. Mr. Chappell reported the May 2024 Special Revenue Program vendor claims totaled \$23,058.49 for portable pump program equipment repairs. Mr. Hansen moved to approve the vendor claim summaries as presented, Mr. Vanderkous seconded the motion, all others were in favor, and the motion carried.

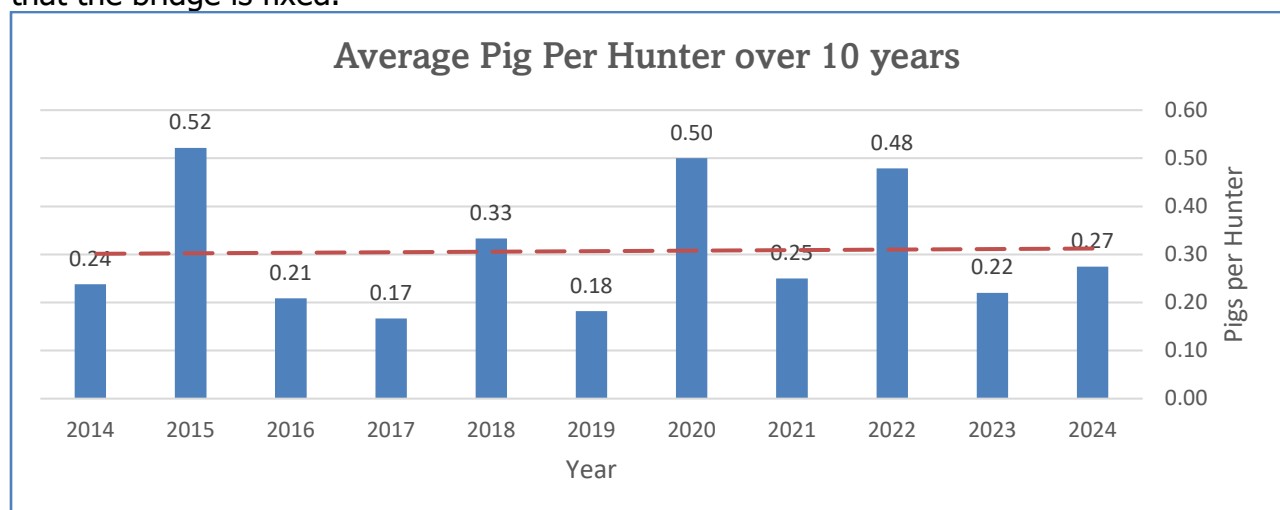
b) For Board Review Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Suisun RCD Draft Budgets ~ Mr. Chappell provided draft budgets for 2024-2025. A cover memo was provided to note changes from the previous year. Staff changes included moving Ms. Collins from ½ time to full time and continuing Ms. Rainey as administrative and contract billing assistant as part time employee. No discretionary payment towards CalPERS retirement unfunded liability and reduced legal fees this year. Overall Mr. Chappell emphasized that SRCD revenues are highly dependent on outside grant programs. For Fiscal Year 24/25 he is projecting a balanced budget or a small surplus for the four SRCD funds. Discussion ensued.

c) Board Consideration for Disposal of Fixed Assets ~ Mr. Chappell presented a list of fixed assets for disposal that have outlived their useful life and were no longer cost effective to repair or maintain. As we approach the end of the current fiscal year, Mr.

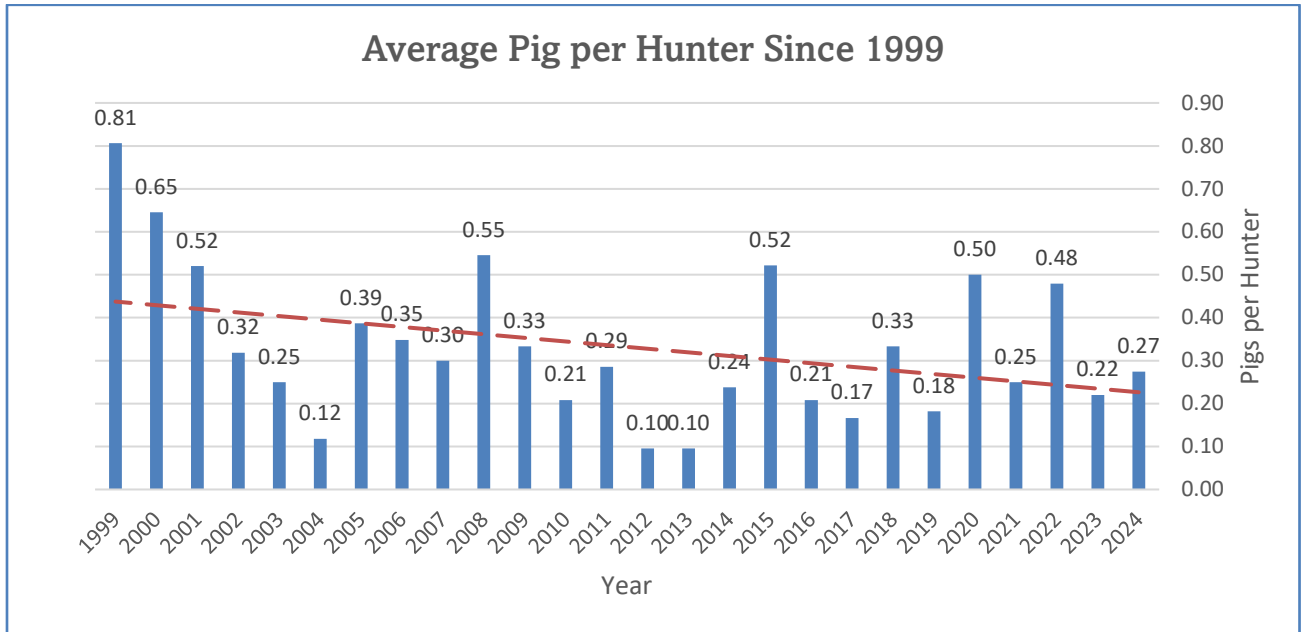
Chappell requested the Board proval the disposal of the following fix assets: 1) 25hp Mercury outboard motor SN#OR291914; 2) Trimble GEO XT; 3) 90hp Mercury outboard motor SN#1B346425; 4) 1988 Massey-Ferguson Tractor SN#BBED14ABXA/F45261; 5) Kohler 8.5 Res Generator SN#2159513; 6) Massey-Ferguson Tractor SN#BBED14ABXA/F45261; 5) Kohler 8.5 Res Generator SN#2159513; 6) Suzuki ATVs (3): SN#5SAAK46A567101401; SN#5SAAK46A967101403; SN#5SAAK46A267101405. Mr. Vanderkous made a motion to approve the disposal of fixed assets. Mr. Hansen seconded the motion; all were in favor and the motion passed.

5. Department of Fish and Wildlife (DFW) Report ~ Mr. Orlando Rocha provided the DFW report.

Joice Island Pig Hunt: Joice Island pig hunts have concluded for this season, and hunter success this year was similar to last year. We had 51 hunters and 1 no show. Of the 51 hunters, 9 successfully harvested 14 pigs in total, resulting in an average of 0.27 pigs per hunter. Since 1999 the average pig per hunter has averaged at 0.34. Hunter success seems to fluctuate year to year, with 7 years to date where the average pigs per hunter was 0.5 or more. While it’s hard to know exactly why we see fluctuations in success rate, last year high water levels due to spring rains kept ponds high and forced us to close parking lots during some hunt weekends, which likely played a role. This year, the bridge closure impacted vegetation management and made the hunt more physically strenuous for the hunters compared to previous years, though hunter effort averaged about the same as last year with hunters spending about 13 hours in the field. In terms of vegetation management, the bridge closure coupled with levee issues on Joice Island restricted our ability to mow and bring equipment onto the island. As a result, tall emergent vegetation in the ponds increased escape cover for pigs and decreased hunter visibility. Next year, we hope to see increased hunter success now that the bridge is fixed.



Description: A bar graph depicting average pig harvests per hunter each year from 2014 – 2024. A linear trendline shows a statistically insignificant increase ($R^2 = 0.0008$) over time.



Description: A bar graph depicting average pig harvests per hunter each year from 1999 – 2014. A linear trendline shows a statistically insignificant decrease ($R^2 = 0.1349$) over time.

Elk: Applications for Grizzly Island Wildlife Area tule elk hunts closed on June 2nd and successful tags were drawn and posted last night. We issued 5 more Bull tags this year than the previous 4 years, bringing the total to 38 tags. This includes 16 antlerless, 10 spike, and 12 bull tags. Our goal with the bull tag increase is to bring the bull to cow ratio closer to our objective of 2 cows to 1 bull in the herd. On the most recent elk survey, 19 calves were counted, I expect to see more calves with every survey. This year, we expect to see close to 30 new calves in the herd.

Joice Island Bridge: The design engineer signed off on the completed construction work on May 24th. Now that the bridge construction is completed, the bridge is open to regular use. We have moved our mowers onto the island to mow levees so we can prepare for planned fall dredging. Our neighbor unfortunately had a levee failure, and the entire Island is once again flooded. Our ponds B, C, and D are fully flooded and several of our interior levees are back under water. We will continue to work on our areas that are accessible and when the neighbor’s levee is repaired, we will focus on repairing damage from the high water.

Wildlife Area: High wind in the last month has limited our spraying opportunities, as well as some of our surveys. Wildlife area staff are continuing to mow levees, as ponds continue to dry, we will be moving into the ponds for mowing soon. Other infrastructure work continues as well, contractors are busy installing pipes and doing some dirt work around the area.

The hunter check station construction project is beginning on Tuesday. The check station is going to be refurbished from the ground up for the upcoming waterfowl season. The contractor expects the work to take approximately 3 months to complete. We are looking forward to having a new check station this season. We are starting to see more duck broods on our summer water, with a few mallard broods utilizing our reverse cycle brood ponds. Nest searching is still going well. Over the last 3 weeks USGS has found 21, 25 and 15 new nests respectively. Gadwall are starting to take over the fields, but there are still plenty of new Mallard nests. Discussion ensued.

6. Department of Water Resources Report ~ Jamel Stewart and Kevin Clark presented the DWR Suisun Marsh briefing packet.

For the month of May, salinity standards were 11.0 mS/cm in the east and the west. The Progressive Daily Mean (PDM) salinities in the Marsh ranged from 0.2-2.1 mS/cm. At the end of May, net Delta outflow was 25,638 cfs. As of June 9th, salinities ranged from 0.6-4.8 mS/cm with Delta outflow at 9,882 cfs with no salinity standard for the eastern and western stations. The Roaring River Distribution System levee inspections were conducted. Environmental staff completed a clearance for annual maintenance through June. Delta Field Division (DFD) conducted Roaring River fish screen cleaning. DFD staff continued annual maintenance including mowing, spraying, and levee road grading. For the Morrow Island Distribution System, DWR conducted levee inspections, and environmental staff conducted a clearance survey for annual maintenance to begin June 10th. Levee inspections also were conducted at Goodyear Slough Outfall, and environmental staff completed clearance for debris. DFD conducted debris clearing and an inspection dive on May 29th. At the Suisun Marsh Salinity Control Gates (SMSCG), gates were in the open position after the end of the control season. Gate 2 remains out for refurbishment.

California reservoir capacity in May ranged from 85-100% of average in the northern Sierra and 83-100% in the southern Sierra. For the new water year, precipitation year to date was 91% of average in the northern Sierra and 84% in the southern Sierra. Discussion ensued.

7. Suisun Resource Conservation District Reports ~

- a) 2015 Suisun Marsh Preservation Agreement: Mr. Chappell reported that the SMPA agreement programs continue to be administered. Monthly calls continue with DWR Management including updates on monthly payment of SRCD contract expenses. The Applicant's Compliance Team meeting was held on May 21st. Mr. Chappell will attend the quarterly Environmental Compliance Advisory Team meeting
- b) PAI Program Update ~ Mr. Chappell provided an update for the PAI Program cost share program. The deadline for the second and final 2024 application period is June 30th with panel review scheduled for July 8th. Discussion ensued.
- c) Suisun Marsh Plan Update ~ There have been no changes with the Suisun Marsh Plan Implementation. The next Principal's meeting will be June 13th. An Adaptive Management Advisory Team meeting was held at Rush Ranch on May 14th with a tour of the Goat Island restoration sites and a visit to the Montezuma Wetlands dredged disposal site. Mr. Levine of the Montezuma Wetlands Project would like to come to the August SRCD Board meeting and the September Landowner Workshop to present a possible future carbon storage project at their site. Discussion ensued.
- d) USACE Permits – RGP 3 & LOP Permit Update ~ SRCD continues to administer the RGP 3 permit. The 2024 May and 1st half of June landowner application packages were submitted to the USACE for approval. Landowners have submitted their 2024 dredging permit application and Water Managers are reviewing these applications and prepping the 2024 application package. SRCD submitted a 3-year BCDC Marsh Development Permit for annual dredging of the 13 fish screen sites in the Marsh. Discussion ensued.
- e) California Forever Initiative ~ Mr. Chappell provided an update to the Board. There were several news articles in the Board package. The initiative and land use designation change has enough signatures to qualify for the November 5th ballot. It will now come to the Solano County Board of Supervisors for consideration on Tuesday, June 25th. SRCD will attend this meeting. Discussion ensued.
- f) Water Manager Program Update ~ Mr. Takekawa presented the Water Manager Program update. Mr. Edmunds submitted his May and June USACE work permit applications and a BCDC application for dredging all fish screen sites to improve their performance. He also took pre-project photographs of exterior work sites for his clubs and he and Mr. Taylor set-up and ran pumps for clubs that requested drainage assistance. He used the boom truck to lift the engine out of the navigation boat for final repair work by mechanic Andy Twiss. He completed the 2024 Phragmites Spray

program chemical order has been placed and Mr. Edmunds worked on the development of a method to capture levee images with the survey drone.

Mr. Taylor submitted exterior work notifications to USACE and NOAA Fisheries on May 13th. He submitted a dredging package for 10 sites to State Lands and BCDC. He submitted a combined May and June work application package to the Corps on June 11th. He processed a drought reimbursement request for parcel #410. He and Mr. Chappell attended a dredging meeting with BCDC on May 22nd. He conducted gate monitoring surveys on May 14th and 29th and submitted inspection reports. He serviced portable drainage pumps on 3 clubs and submitted the final water quality proposal for DO monitoring for the Fall 2024-Spring 2025 period. He served as the boat operator to assist Ms. Brandon with inspection of the DWR Wing's Landing levee on May 15th. He worked on conducting maintenance repairs on the pipe trailer and 2 utility trailers at Les Schwab.

Ms. Guzman reviewed water logger data for the Delta Conservancy project from May 8-10. She worked with several clubs on 2024 PAI applications, and she completed dredging applications for 3 clubs. She completed exterior work photos on several clubs. She fixed a diesel leak on her work truck. She worked with the new owners at Gray Island on water management issues including installation of a staff gauge. On May 29th, she met with the Solano County Water Agency on management of their Tule Lang property. From June 3-7, she downloaded water level data from Rich Island, Wheeler Island, and Mein's Landing and built housings to keep the units immersed when not in the field.

Ms. Collins continued to assist Ms. Perez in administrative tasks on contracts and grants. On May 15th, she distributed the final Mein's Landing habitat meeting recommendations and action items. She emailed the updated copies of Individual Management Plans certified by BCDC to landowners on May 30th. On June 3rd, she sent updated maps and landowner contacts to Kyle English at the Suisun Fire Protection District for emergency response, and she also sent access roads, gate locations, and AED locations to Solano County OES at their request. On June 10th, Ms. Collins prepared and distributed the Evite invitation for the 2024 SCF Fun Shoot. She worked with webmaster Charles Fox on the presentation of the updated vegetation guide on the SRCD website. She worked on the final draft manuscript for the Suisun Fish Biomass project linking wetland drains to fish sampling sites. She also worked on preparing dredging layers for updating Geomارش.

Ms. Brandon worked on salt marsh harvest mouse occupancy modeling by creating marsh polygons for all of the sample sites. She imported layers for environmental analyses, and she began extracting data for covariate analyses. She conducted

fieldwork with CDFW staff on trapping surveys at Hill Slough. Ms. Brandon and Mr. Takekawa met with the mouse team on project updates and report and manuscript preparation. She completed figures and background literature for the draft levee breach and salinity manuscript. She uploaded the updated vegetation photos for use on the SRCD website.

g) Lower Joice Island Update ~ Mr. Takekawa provided the Lower Joice Island update. Marque maintained the facilities and habitats on the island, and he completed a final leach cycle. He installed siding on the lower part of the caretaker house, and he ordered materials for a small bulkhead that will be installed on Montezuma Slough in mid-summer. He mowed the outer levee, but the Massey-Ferguson tractor died a few times. He demolished an old storage trailer on the island and loaded it onto the barge. On June 3rd, he and Mr. Takekawa hauled the barge into Pierce Harbor and loaded the dumpster on June 3rd and 4th, which was the 4th load disposed this year. Jeff also helped with loading the dumpster and delivered a pipe for dock repairs. On May 6th, we acquired a used 2005 Kubota M9000 4WD tractor with a front bucket and grapple from Riggs Tractor in Severy, Kansas. We contracted with Global Transport to haul the tractor to Pierce Harbor, and they picked up the tractor on the morning of June 12th. We have made an appointment with our mechanic at Howeco to tune-up the tractor after it arrives. We plan to transport the Kubota tractor to the island on our barge. Once we have the Kubota tractor working, we will transport the old Massey-Ferguson tractor from the island to an auction yard for sale. In addition, we completed an agreement with United Rental to acquire a used Polaris Pro XD 2000D 4WD UTV for the island. Finally, Ms. Brandon produced a map of *Phragmites* distribution on Lower Joice Island from the 2022 NAIP image, and she updated the standard operation procedure on that analysis. Ms. Collins completed maps of spraying for Phragmites from the previous 4 years, and we will use these to target areas for control this year.

h) Summary of Past & Future Meetings, Tours, and Presentations ~ Mr. Chappell provided an update on meetings. The Suisun Conservation Fund Fun Shoot and Social event will be held on Friday, July 26th at Birds Landing. Mr. Chappell and Mr. Takekawa had a fieldtrip on May 15th with Ms. Deanna Sereno from the Contra Costa Water District to discuss water issues and Suisun Marsh. Mr. Chappell led a tour with the Water Education Foundation on May 17th. The Fall Landowner Workshop will be on Sept. 18th. Discussion ensued.

9. Suisun Resource Conservation District Committee Reports ~

- a) Agency Committee ~ No report.
- b) Legal Committee ~ No report.
- c) Personnel Committee ~ No report.
- d) Finance Committee ~ No report.

e) Associate Director's Committee ~ No report.

10. Meeting Adjournment ~ A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Mr. Vanderkous seconded by Mr. Hansen; all were in favor and the motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 3:19 PM.